

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 DLOS-06 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00 INT-08 CG-00 FEA-02 IO-14 EB-11

AID-20 DRC-01 /135 W

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P R 182244Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8527

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, EFIS, US, PE, EC

SUBJ: GOP REAFFIRMS SOVEREIGNTY OVER 200 MILE

TERRITORIAL SEA

REF: LIMA 0230

1. ON JANUARY 17 GOP ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD BEGUN EFFECTIVE "OCCUPATION" OF 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISHING FLEET WHICH WILL EXPLOIT OCEAN RESOURCES FOR PERUVIAN PEOPLE. OCCASION WAS CEREMONY AT FISHING PORT OF CHIMBOTE WHERE THREE LARGE OCEAN-GOING FISHING VESSELS CONSTRUCTED BY PICSA SHIPYARDS WERE TURNED OVER AND KEEL WAS LAID FOR FOURTH. FISHERIES MINISTER TANTALEAN PRESIDED WITH ATTENDANCE OF FONMIN DE LA FLOR, ECONMIN MARCO DEL PONT, HOUSING MIN ARROSPIDE, AS WELL AS OTHER PROMINENT PERSONALITIES CONNECTED WITH 200 MILE THESIS.

2. IN STRONGLY NATIONALISTIC VEIN, TANTALEAN EMOTIONALLY PROCLAIMED THAT PERU WOULD NOT ALLOW "THEFT" BY FOREIGNERS OF RESOURCES SUCH AS HAD BEEN PERMITTED IN PAST IN CASES OF GUANO, SUGAR, COTTON, AND PETROLEUM. HE ASSERTED PERUVIANS WOULD DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY, OVERCOMING ALL OBSTACLES.

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CROWD OF ENTHUSIASTIC FISHERMEN RESPONDED WITH CHEERS AND WAVING OF

BANNERS.

3. COMMENT: TONE OF TANTALEAN'S SPEECH SUGGESTS GOP MAY BE EMBARKING ON MORE AGGRESSIVE FISHING POLICY WHICH IN THE EXTREME COULD LEAD TO ALLOCATION OF FISHING QUOTAS TO FOREIGN FISHERMEN AND POSSIBLY THEIR EXCLUSION FROM CLAIMED 200 MILE TERRIROTIAL SEA. IT ALSO MAY BE REACTION TO APPARENT WEAKENING OF JOINT CEP POSITION AS RESULT OF CHILEAN ANNOUNCEMENT AT CONCLUSION SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION MEETING AT QUITO THAT IT WILL ADVOCATE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, RATHER THAN TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY CLAIM, AT FORTHCOMING LOS CONFERENCE.

4. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO REACTIVATE OUR FISHERIES CONVERSATIONS WITH GOP AND EXPLORE ALL AVENUES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN US AND PERUVIAN FISHING ENTERPRISES, BEFORE GOP POSITION HARDENS AND BEFORE US FISHING VESSELS RETURN TO AREA AND BECOME VULNERABLE TO SEIZURE. SOME FONOFF CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT ATMOSPHERE IS PROPITIOUS FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON INTERIM AGREEMENT.

5. STATE 011616 JUST RECEIVED. EMBASSY WILL CONSIDER POINTS PARAGRAPH 4 AND COMMENT FURTHER IN SEPTTEL.
BELCHER

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Message Attributes

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